The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and considers other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1812 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 36, NO. 1

VICTORY LOAN

Thru Payroll Savings

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The twenty-sixth and final 1945 edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

Highlights of 1945

By BORIS SHISHKIN
AFL Economist

Hail to 1945, the year of victory! Farewell to 1945, the year of frustration!

In reviewing the old year, the military achievement of the first half contrasts sharply with our progress and disappointments in the aftermath of war.

1945 is a date our grandchildren will be required to memorize in school. It will be known as the year of the smashing triumph of the forces of democracy over the dictatorships of Germany and Japan. It will be remembered because of the formation of the United Nations' Organization at San Francisco and the decision of the United States to engage for the first time in international cooperation in safeguarding world peace. Above all, it will stand out in history as the year in which man first succeeded in harnessing atomic power, power for great good and, perhaps, greater evil.

It was in 1945 that Franklin Roosevelt, who had charted the nation's course toward the defeat of Fascism, died with startling suddenness, his task unfinished. In 1945, Harry Truman took over the wheel and kept our ship on its victorious course.

Yes, the future historian will designate 1945 as a pivotal year, perhaps the turning point in civilization. But we, who live in the present, have more to do than men ever had before with the direction in which the future course of history will turn. Which way are we turning? Let's take our bearings.

The course we traveled in the second half of 1945 would show that the people of America and the peoples of the world failed to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the ending of the war. No sooner had victory been proclaimed than new fighting and threats of more wars cropped up. Strife keeps flaring up—in China, in Java, in Iran. Throughout Europe and Asia, strewn with bombs, death, misery, fear and hate, cold, and famine, stalks again, gathering its postwar harvest. Peacetime reconstruction is not yet underway. And peace itself is far from secure.

At home, we have failed to tackle the problems of reconversion in a united and realistic way. Five months after final victory we are still plagued by acute shortages and inflation is greater than before. The wage income of the nation's workers has been dwindling. Unemployment continues on the rise. Congress failed to provide for human needs; it did nothing to prevent unnecessary suffering during reconversion. Returning veterans and released war workers face an acute shortage of homes and severely limited opportunities for steady jobs.

These disconcerting conditions burden the American people at the close of 1945 and have dimmed the earlier elation of victory. The men and women of America who have won the war are still determined to win the peace. They have sensed a new responsibility as citizens. As they enter 1946, they no longer look for promises, they insist on answers.

Preview of 1946

By ROBERT J. WATT
AFL International Representative

Troubles are transitory. Hope springs eternal. So as we look ahead to 1946, we can't help anticipating better times. There is so much room for improvement in domestic affairs and in world affairs that an observer would have to be a confirmed pessimist not to see any indications of progress.

After all, the war is over and we won it. To parents throughout America and to the millions of young men and women who are coming home, that alone makes 1946 a year of promise. No matter how grave the problems of readjustment may become, no matter what disappointments may lie ahead, the worry and the heartache of the war years have lifted and the relief we all experience is a blessing.

Is it conceivable that after the terrible struggle we have undergone to win a war for the preservation of our democratic beliefs that we should now falter and hesitate and fail to overcome the far simpler problems of peace?

Labor refuses to admit that possibility. We are determined that 1946 shall be a year of reinforced peace and reconstruction, a year of rededication to the noble goals which inspired us to victory.

So let's see what can be done. Next month the assembly of the United Nations Organization will hold its first meeting. It will consider peace terms for the liberated nations of Europe and for our conquered enemies. We, the American people, should resolve that our nation shall stand for justice at the peace tables and for the opportunity for all peoples to enjoy security and freedom. Only in that way can lasting peace be assured.

Next month Congress will return to work. These lawmakers are supposed to represent us, the American people. Let us inform them in no uncertain terms what we want. Let us demand that the legislative branch will promote the objective of jobs for all in America. We want a law that will provide health insurance for all our people. We want a decent minimum wage level and unemployment insurance to protect those unable to find jobs during reconversion. We don't want any new laws which will infringe on the basic liberties of farmers or businessmen or workers.

For its own part, labor is ready to make some New Year's resolutions. The American Federation of Labor will do its utmost to cooperate with employers for the immediate resumption of peacetime production. At the same time, we will keep up the fight for higher wage rates and other conditions necessary to protect and improve the living standards of American workers. For unless the wage earners of our country are well off, the entire nation will suffer.

We in the American Federation of Labor firmly believe that if all elements and all groups in our population will together we are bound to win the peace and establish a prosperous economy in our country in 1946. And we hereby offer to pull our share of the load.

Freedom of the Air

By PHILIP PEARL
AFL Publicity Director

In a free country like ours, no one has a monopoly on the air. That goes not only for breathing but for broadcasting.

Radio stations operate not through rights of possession but under government license. Each licensed station is assigned a specific wave-length by the Federal Communications Commission.

Since most stations are operated for private profit they must sell part of their broadcasting time to sponsors who want to advertise commercial products. News programs as well as entertainment are sponsored by business firms. Inevitably, the views of big business have in this way dominated the air waves.

Now organized labor can't compete with big business in paid advertising. It just doesn't have the money. But even if it had, the rules of the National Association of Broadcasters would have interposed to prevent labor organizations as well as others—for the discussion of public problems. And the Federal Communications Commission requires all stations to devote part of their broadcast time to such discussion.

On this basis of freedom of the air, the American Federation of Labor a year ago appealed to the four major networks to provide it with time for a regular series of weekly radio programs throughout the year. Three of the networks responded favorably—the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System and the American Broadcasting Company. When the fourth network refused to provide time for a regular weekly series, the American Broadcasting Company volunteered to double its time contribution.

This program marks the end of the first year's cycle of 52 consecutive weekly broadcasts by the American Federation of Labor in cooperation with the three radio networks participating.

In these programs, the AFL has presented no news and views in the firm belief that what helps labor helps the nation. The response from our listening audience has been highly encouraging.

As proof of the success of the cooperative policy between labor and the radio networks, the latter have agreed to continue the same arrangements in 1946.

The American Federation of Labor wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System and the American Broadcasting Company for according labor a measure of freedom of the air. It is also worth mentioning that in no case has the American Federation of Labor ever encountered any attempt to censor its scripts or to interfere with its freedom of expression on the air.

Big 1946 Problems To Be Taken Up By AFL Executive Council Jan. 21

Miami, Fla.—Legislative problems vital to labor's interests will form the principal topics of discussion at the annual winter meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, which opens here Jan. 21.

Another question which may come up before the meeting and which has aroused wide public interest is the possible reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers Union with the American Federation of Labor. No official announcement as to whether this subject will be considered has been forthcoming.

First among the legislative issues confronting the AFL leaders is the Norton-Ellender Bill, based upon a proposal by President Truman for the authorization of fact-finding disputes to prevent strikes and make recommendations for settlement after collective bargaining has broken down.

The AFL already has come out against this bill on the ground that it infringes the right to strike and would lay unions open to penalties through mass injunctions and damage suits.

On the positive side, the AFL Executive Council is expected to press Congress for adoption of full employment legislation, an unemployment compensation bill, minimum wage legislation and health insurance.

Support is for the efforts of affiliated unions to obtain wage increases unquestionably will be voted and a new organizing campaign undertaken.

Green Appeals To Affiliated Bodies To Get Vote On Jobless Pay Bill

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies to join in a drive for action by Congress on unemployment compensation legislation which would provide a nation-wide maximum of $25 a week for six months of the year to those who lose their jobs during reconversion.

The bill, urged by President Truman, is now buried in a pigeon-hole of the House Ways and Means Committee, but Rep. Bradley of Pennsylvania has initiated a petition to discharge the committee from further consideration of the measure and force it to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Green informed the affiliated organizations that the rules of the House require 218 signatures on such a petition before the committee can be discharged.

He therefore urged the state and city bodies to prevail upon their Representatives during the congressional recess to sign the petition and put it over.

"Insist that they do so, as a matter of simple justice," Mr. Green wrote.

Attempts to get quick action on pending minimum wage legislation designed to lift the floor under wages in interstate commerce to 65 cents an hour hit a snag when the Senate Labor Committee decided to postpone further hearings on the measure to Jan. 21.

Senator Ellender, of Louisiana, who opposes the bill blocked earlier action in a secret committee session.

The bill would lift the minimum wage to 70 cents after one year and to 75 cents after two years. Thus, it would be of tremendous benefit to millions of workers in the low-income brackets and help to swell purchasing power.

First of AFL Radio Forums On NBC Beginning Jan. 6

Washington, D. C.—How can labor-management relations be improved?

That is the interesting and constructive topic of the AFL's first 1946 radio forum, which will be broadcast Sunday, Jan. 6 on the NBC's "America United" program. Since some local stations on the network carry the program at later dates, by transcription, consult your local newspaper for the exact time of the broadcast in your area.

The AFL's guest on the program will be Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy, who formerly served as president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Robert J. Watt, will represent the AFL on the discussion panel. Other participants will include representatives of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Farmers Union.

This is the first of a series of 13 consecutive weekly broadcasts on "America United" under AFL sponsorship. Listen to them regularly!

Awards For Merit To Labor Press Announced By I.L.P.A. Committee

Washington, D. C.—From more than a hundred entries in the field of labor publications throughout the country, the International Labor Press of America has made awards for outstanding achievement in journalism.

The winners in each classification, as chosen by a special committee of the ILPA, follow:

International Union Publications

A. For editorial excellence—first, Machinists Monthly Journal; second, Building Service Employes.

B. For typography and pressework—first, Building Service Employee; second, Journeyman Barber.

Monthly Labor Papers

A. For editorial excellence—first, the Hat Worker; second, Public Employes' Journal, Atlanta.

B. For typography and pressework—first, Southern California Teamster; second, Southern Teamster, Atlanta.

Weekly Labor Papers

A. For editorial excellence—first, Cleveland Citizen; second, Los Angeles Citizen.

B. For typography and pressework—first, Tacoma Labor Advocate; second, Detroit Labor News.

Best Single Editorial

Building Service Employe, for an editorial entitled "On Reaching the Public," by President William C. McCambridge.

Best Original Cartoon

First, Tacoma Labor Avocate, "Slave Labor."
Second, Labor League News, "Home Front—War Front."

Best Pictorial Display

Labor Temple News, Peoria, Ill.

Best Front Page

For news style, The Labor World, Duluth; for pictorial style, Government Employees' Journal.

Best Feature Article

The Hat Worker, for "Why Blame the South for Bilbo?"

Best Special Column

Kentucky Labor News, for "I saw a Friend Go By," by Ed H. Wyler. No award was made for the "most effective editorial crusade."

N. Y. LABOR CHEST HAS VETERANS BUREAU

New York City—A veterans department to advise AFL workers returning from the armed forces on employment problems has been set up by the AFL New York Labor Chest.

Honorably discharged veterans who are interested in entering trades organized by AFL unions will also be helped.

Head of the new department is Louis Weiss, an AFL member for 18 years who was recently discharged from the armed services after 33 months in the Seabees, including 22 months overseas.

President Vetoes "Rider" Returning USES To States

Truman Makes Final Plea For Jobs-For-All Bill

Washington, D. C.—President Truman continued his fight today for full employment legislation by asking the Congressional conferees to adopt the draft passed by the Senate with its provision for federal investments and expenditures to take up any slack in private employment.

Basically the President demanded of Congress "a declaration of the ultimate duty of government to use its own resources if all other methods should fail to prevent prolonged unemployment." The proposition was defeated overwhelmingly in the House and received Senate approval only after several inhibiting amendments were added.

In identical letters to Senator Wagner and Representative Manasco of Alabama, as managers of the legislation, President Truman asked final passage of the Senate version, explaining that while it modified the language of the original bill, it did not remove its essential provisions.

Recalling how the House had sent to conference "a wholly new measure lacking the essential features of the employment bill as passed by the Senate," Mr. Truman said he believed many Representatives had supported it "in the belief that its conferees would have an opportunity to restore the essentials of the Senate bill."

"In my opinion no bill which provides substantially less than the Senate version can effectively accomplish the purposes intended," the President wrote. "I urge the conferees to support the essential character of the Full Employment Bill adopted by the Senate by a vote of 71 to 10.

"The essential characteristics of effective legislation to establish a national policy in respect to employment opportunity I see have been described in my message to the Congress on September 6 as follows:

"'A national reasertion of the right to work for every American citizen able and willing to work—a declaration of the ultimate duty of government to use its own methods and resources to help fill in or prevent prolonged unemployment—these will help to avert fear and establish full employment.

"'I ask for full employment legislation to provide these vital assurances be speedily enacted.'

"I hope that the Congress will adopt a bill substantially in the form passed by the Senate."

Prior to final Senate passage of the measure a provision was inserted under which any items of federal construction and expenditure during the fiscal year 1948 or later while the country was at peace "shall be accompanied by a program of taxation designed and calculated to prevent any such increase in the national debt" other than a debt incurred for self-liquidating projects and other reimbursable expenditures over a "reasonable" period.

The Senate version of the bill, completely stricken by the House but still before the conferees, declared it to be the responsibility of the federal government "to assure continuing full employment that is, the existence at all times of sufficient employment opportunities for all Americans able to work and desiring to work."

However, this asserted federal responsibility was modified by other language which stipulated that the responsibility should be consistent with the needs and obligations of the government and other essential considerations of national policy.

The bill also emphasizes the responsibility of the federal government to foster and encourage private enterprise and its assistance to part of private capital, and other steps to attain the "full employment" goal.

The House conference committee on the Executive Department challenged the whole concept of the federal government's obligation to provide jobs for anyone. It said that "full employment never has been and never will be attained under our system of free competitive enterprise except in wartime under huge deficits."

Plans Being Pushed to Reorganize Vital Labor Department Services

Washington, D. C.—The administration has plans ready for overhauling the Labor Department, Gen. Lewis B. Schwellenbach, whose aides have quietly provided with the reorganization.

1. The United States Employment Service is ready to go ahead in earnest with the job of finding jobless workers time jobs and orderly direction of the nationwide shift in employment. Power over the employment office's future was largely dissipated by President Truman's veto of a bill, which would have returned control to the states next April.

2. The War Labor Board has almost cleared its docket as its life will expire Dec. 31. It has set up the National Wage Stabilization Board to carry out provisions of the Stabilization Act until next June 30.

3. The reemployment and retraining administration has begun operating under Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Ercine. It has tackled the job of coordinating federal employment and training services for veterans and war workers and will work partially through local offices.

4. Reorganization of the conciliation service is nearing completion on the basis that new men have been hired and other changes have been made, but this remains one of the biggest jobs to be completed by Secretary Schwellenbach in 1946. The government counts on this service to avert or settle labor-management disputes before they result in work stoppages.

5. Truman has signed the Federal Reorganization Bill passed by Congress and is expected to carry out further consolidation of labor agencies in the labor department.

AFL GOV'T COUNCIL HITS PAY RAISE OBSTRUCTION

Washington, D. C.—The Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor asked Senator Byrd to withdraw his obstructive tactics against the Downey salary bill for federal employes.

"The President has called for his former Senatorial colleagues' support in maintaining the nation's purchasing power and has specified he wants the government to follow its own policy by granting the 20 percent salary proposal into effect in the federal civilian service," the council said.

"Yet, the Virginia Senator has been kicked around and hardly tolerated on the floor to delay the Congressional measure. Senators Byrd and Hickenlooper failed to have their way in the Civil Service Committee."

PAPER MAKERS REACH NEW WAGE AGREEMENT

Tacoma, Wash.—John Sherman, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, said that AFL unions in the industry had approved an agreement with Northwest paper manufacturers. The agreement covers 32 mills of the Pacific Coast Association of Pulp and Paper Manufacturers employing about 17,000 workers. Mr. Sherman said that contracts calling for a 15 percent wage boost for all mills employes receiving 92½ cents an hour and up, and a 17½ percent increase on the base rate, bringing it up to $1.06 an hour, would be signed immediately.

PROFESSOR DECLARES UNION SALARIES LOW

Boston.—Writing in the Harvard Business Review, Philip Taft, Associate Professor of Business Economics at Brown University, says that an examination of 350 local union constitutions had failed to show salaries paid union officials were excessive.

Out of 84 cases in which salaries were given, Mr. Taft found that officers of 29 received the prevailing rate of the trade or the foreman's rate, most rates being below $75 weekly. Of the other salaries furnished, the median was $75 a week, the article stated, and only 21 were above that figure and only 10 above $100.

JOBLESS PAY CLAIMS MOUNT IN NEW YORK

Albany, N. Y.—Unemployment insurance claims in New York State have jumped from about 50,000 on Dec. 1 to over 60,000 and further increases are expected in 1946, the State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance reported.

The total does not include 182,000 veterans who have filed claims for readjustment allowances under the G. I. Bill.

The division pointed out, however, that the jobless total for the state as a whole still falls far short of 1940, when the greatest number of insurance benefits were paid. The 1940 top weekly figure was 400,489, compared with a total of 240,052 for the week ending Dec. 24.

Follows AFL Urgings In Preventing Blow To Unemployed

Washington, D. C.—Carrying out the urgent recommendations of the American Federation of Labor, President Truman vetoed a Congressional "rider" which would have forced return of control of the United States Employment Service to the states within 100 days.

In his veto message the President said:

"So far as the timing of the transfer is concerned, the period designated by this bill—the next 100 days—is the most disadvantageous that could have been chosen. It will result in a disrupted and inefficient employment service at the very time when efficient operation is most vitally needed by veterans, workers, and employers.

"Our local public employment offices are now and will be during the next several months, in the midst of the peak work load in their history. This is because the offices are now engaged in counseling and placing millions of applicants who require individualized service. These applicants include able-bodied veterans needing assistance in their readjustment to civilian life, handicapped veterans requiring even more time and guidance in finding the jobs most suitable for them, and unemployed war workers who are confronted by difficult readjustments because of substantial reductions in job opportunities at their wartime skills and wage rates.

"At such a time, any change in management and direction is necessarily disruptive to the service. A change in control would replace competent single and unified management by fifty-one separate managements would be very harmful. Even with every effort by the states to promote a smooth transition, the transfer of some 25,000 employees to new conditions of employment, and the adjustment of operations to the requirements of fifty-one different state agencies, will inevitably cause confusion and delay.

"Apart from the timing of the transfer, the provisions of H. R. 4407 which govern the basis for federal-state cooperation in the maintenance of public employment offices do not assure that an adequate service will be available in all states.

The bill provides for the operation of public employment offices by the states under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor to carry out the provisions of the Wagner-Peyser Act. Operating costs would be met entirely by the federal government. These provisions of the bill would remain in effect for only a few months—the balance of the current fiscal year.

"The bill precludes the granting of funds to any state which is unable, or unwilling, to comply with the provisions of the bill or any requirement of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

"A federal-state cooperative program for a national system of public employment offices financed entirely by federal funds must be made to provide assurance as to two basic objectives. The federal government must be sure that the essential services are being provided through the public employment offices, and it must know that the offices are being operated with reasonable efficiency. Under such a program the federal government is not interested in preventing minute or insignificant details concerning the state operation, but it does have a stake in the preservation of reasonable standards.

"H. R. 4407 provides no effective protection for this national interest. If any state, for any reason, cannot or does not meet the minimum requirements, federal grants cannot be made, but at the same time the federal government itself is precluded from continuing the operation of public employment office facilities in the state.

"This means, in effect, that when there is a substantial failure to provide essential services or to meet minimum standards of efficiency, the federal government must choose between two alternatives which are both unsatisfactory. It must either acquiesce in the substandard operation—or by withholding funds, it must deprive all of the state's employers, workers, and veterans of service they need and to which they are entitled.

"At the time of such acute emergency—when employment offices are needed to provide veterans with the services with which the Congress has required they be provided, and needed also to assist other unemployed workers in securing peacetime jobs—I cannot approve legislation which, under some conditions, may offer only a choice between a substantially substandard service or no service at all."

UNION 'SPLITS DIFFERENCE,' GETS 15 PERCENT BOOST

San Diego, Cal.—By "splitting the difference" with their employers, Local B 465 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers obtained wage increases aggregating $450,000 a year for the 1,200 employes of the San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

The union had asked a 20 percent boost, while the company offered 10 percent. The 15 percent compromise finally agreed upon was made retroactive until last Aug. 15 and amounted to an average raise of $1.50 a day for the workers.